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# Ambler Road Site Specific Plan

**Public Review Draft  
January 2022**

Note: To receive full consideration, comments on the  
Public Review Draft must be received before:

**5:00 P.M., Friday, April 1, 2022**

Send comments to:

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Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Mining, Land & Water  
Resource Assessment & Development Section



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1 **Introduction**

2  
3 The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has received an application for a proposed  
4 industrial road right-of-way (ROW) approximately 211 miles in length stretching from milepost  
5 161 along the Dalton Highway to the Ambler Mining District. 11 AAC 55.040(i) requires that land  
6 classification precede conveyance or leasing of state land, which is the purpose of this Site  
7 Specific Land Use Plan (SSP). In addition to land use designations, the SSP also contains an  
8 inventory and analysis of resources and uses for state land in the planning area, and provides  
9 management guidelines for use of state land. These management guidelines form the basis for  
10 classification of approximately 244,188 acres of state-owned and state selected uplands. The  
11 classification for state-selected lands would become effective on the day Tentative Approval  
12 (TA) is granted. Once adopted by the Commissioner of DNR, this SSP will be considered a final  
13 plan and will guide decision making within the plan boundary.

14  
15 The proposed road would start at a location approximately 170 miles northwest of Fairbanks and  
16 terminate near the Ambler River, approximately 18 miles northwest of the City of Kobuk. The  
17 planning area extends from the start of the proposed route to the eastern boundary of the  
18 Northwest Area Plan and incorporates state lands within and surrounding the proposed right-of-  
19 way corridor, and additional sites needed for construction and maintenance of the proposed  
20 gravel industrial road. The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA), a  
21 public corporation of the State of Alaska, is the applicant. The application is for a private  
22 exclusive easement and is assigned serial number ADL 421741. AIDEA intends to charge  
23 commercial users a fee for use and maintenance of the road.  
24  
25

26 **Background Information**

27  
28 **Location**

29  
30 **Geographic**

31  
32 The subject lands lie between the Brooks Range to the north, the Yukon River to the south, and  
33 between the Dalton Highway to the east, and the Northwest Area Plan boundary to the west.  
34

35 **Borough/Municipality**

36 Unincorporated State Land.  
37

38 **USGS Map Coverage**

39 Bettles D-2, Bettles D-3, Bettles D-4, Bettles D-5, Hughes D-1, Hughes D-2, Survey Pass A-1,  
40 Survey Pass A-2, Wiseman A-1, Wiseman A-2, Wiseman A-3, Wiseman A-4, Wiseman A-5,  
41 Wiseman A-6.  
42  
43  
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## 1 **Legal Description**

2  
3 The areas subject to this plan are more clearly defined as being all State land within:

4  
5 T 25 N, R 16 W, FM, Sections 1-6, 8-14;  
6 T 25 N, R 18 W, FM, Sections 1-4;  
7 T 25 N, R 20 W, FM, Sections 1-12;  
8 T 25 N, R 21 W, FM, Sections 1-6, 9-12;  
9 T 25 N, R 22 W, FM, Sections 1-6;  
10 T 26 N, R 17 W, FM, Sections 13-17, 19-24, 27-34;  
11 T 26 N, R 19 W, FM, Sections 19-36;  
12 T 26 N, R 20 W, FM, Sections 25-36;  
13 T 26 N, R 21 W, FM, Sections 19-23, 25-36;  
14 T 26 N, R 22 W, FM, Sections 6-9, 16-36;  
15 T 26 N, R 23 W, FM, Sections 1-26;  
16 T 26 N, R 24 W, FM, Sections 1-24;  
17 T 26 N, R 25 W, FM, Sections 1-2, 11-14, 23-24;  
18 T 27 N, R 24 W, FM, Sections 31-35;  
19 T 27 N, R 25 W, FM, Sections 35-36;  
20 T 19 N, R 23 E, KRM, Sections 1-24, 29-30;  
21 T 19 N, R 24 E, KRM, Sections 1-24;  
22 T 19 N, R 25 E, KRM, Sections 1-21;  
23 T 19 N, R 26 E, KRM, Sections 25-36;  
24 T 19 N, R 27 E, KRM, Sections 6-7;  
25 T 20 N, R 25 E, KRM, Section 25-26, 31-36;  
26 T 20 N, R 26 E, KRM, Sections 25-36; and  
27 T 20 N, R 27 E, KRM, Sections 30-31.

28  
29 All State selected land within:

30  
31 T 25 N, R 14 W, FM, Sections 4-8, 18;  
32 T 25 N, R 15 W, FM, Sections 1-18;  
33 T 25 N, R 18 W, FM, Sections 1-6;  
34 T 26 N, R 13 W, FM, Sections 9-17, 19-24, 27-33;  
35 T 26 N, R 14 W, FM, Sections 20-36;  
36 T 26 N, R 15 W, FM, Sections 25, 31-36; and  
37 T 26 N, R 17 W, FM, Sections 25-26.

## 38 39 **Title and Land Status**

### 40 41 **Classification**

42 All state owned and state selected land in the subject area will be classified. State land is  
43 classified under the authority of AS 38.04.005, AS 38.05.300, and 11 AAC 55.010 -.280,  
44 according to the management intent set forth in this area plan. See the attached Land  
45 Classification Order (LCO) NC-21-001.  
46

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## 1 **Title Status**

2 The State of Alaska holds fee title to the land and mineral estate of a majority of the subject area,  
3 approximately 198,370 acres, under Patent or Tentative Approval acquired through state general  
4 grant selections. A portion of the subject area, approximately 45,818 acres, is state selected  
5 federal land.

## 7 **Third Party Interests**

8 Trapping cabin located in F025N016W, Sec. 05, ADL 413390.  
9 Trapping cabin located in K020N026E, Sec. 28, ADL 403355.

## 11 **Mineral Status**

12 Open to mineral entry except where designated, as follows:  
13 MO 1162A01 located in F026N013W, Secs. 11, 14, 15, 16, 22, closed to entry for ASAP ROW.  
14 MO 1147 located in F026N013W, Secs. 11, 14, closed to entry for TAPS ROW.

## 16 **State Determined Navigable Waterbodies**

17 Middle Fork Koyukuk River, North Fork Koyukuk River, Koyukuk River, Wild River, John  
18 River, Timber Creek, Malamute Fork of the John River, Malamute Fork of the Alatna River,  
19 Iniakuk River, Alatna River, Helpmejack Creek, Kichaiakaka Creek.

## 21 **Climate**

22  
23 The plan area is located within Interior Alaska, where the climate is characterized as subarctic  
24 and semiarid. The area has microclimates that experience low annual precipitation of  
25 approximately 17 inches and a range of temperatures as high as 100°F and as low as -70°F (BLM  
26 2016a). Lowland basins and broad valleys between the Brooks and Alaska-Aleutian ranges  
27 largely influence the climate. Area winds are dominated by wind flows from the east that reach  
28 15 to 25 miles per hour. High winds in the lowland areas with open riverbeds often re-entrain  
29 particulates (ADEC 2016). These climate factors could contribute to haze and poor visibility, but  
30 also to atmospheric clearing.

## 32 **Resource Inventory**

### 34 **Topography/Geology**

35 The plan area spans multiple physiographic provinces. The proposed route follows the southern  
36 foothills of the Brooks Range and runs through the Arctic Mountains province, which consists of  
37 glacier-carved mountains and hills of folded and faulted sedimentary rocks and their  
38 metamorphic equivalents. Alluvium and glacial drift fill the valleys and lowlands between  
39 ranges. Continuous permafrost underlies this region.

### 41 **Minerals**

42 The proposed road project provides access to the Ambler Mining District, which has been  
43 explored for mineral potential since the 1950s and contains a major mineral belt. Nova Copper  
44 U.S. Inc. (now Trilogy Metals, Inc. or Ambler Metals LLC), Valhalla Mining LLC, and Teck  
45 Alaska Incorporated have staked more than 160,000 acres of mining claims in the District. The

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1 project may provide access to existing claims or mineral occurrences along the selected  
2 transportation corridor, including the following:

- 3
- 4 • Rare earth elements (REEs), placer gold, platinum group elements (PGEs), carbonate-  
5 hosted copper, sandstone-hosted uranium, and tin-tungsten-molybdenum deposits.
- 6 • Bituminous coal occurrences along the route in the Upper Koyukuk Basin (total  
7 estimated resource quantity unknown).
- 8

## 9 **Soils**

10 Soil types in the plan area vary widely, but have common characteristics: they all developed  
11 under a cold temperature regime in which biological and chemical transformations are slow and  
12 soil horizons or layers are subject to physical dislocations as a result of freeze-thaw processes.

## 13 **Vegetation**

14 The plan area is comprised of lowlands, hills, and mountains within Alaska's Interior and  
15 Northern subregions west of the Dalton Highway, between the Brooks Range Mountains to the  
16 north and the Yukon River to the south.

17  
18 Forest and woodlands are common at lower elevations, with black spruce in wetland bogs; white  
19 spruce and balsam poplar along rivers; white spruce, paper birch, and trembling aspen on well-  
20 drained uplands; and shrub communities at higher elevations dominate the Kobuk ecoregion.  
21 Tussocks, shrubs, mixed forest, and alpine tundra on the southern side of the range dominate the  
22 Brooks Range ecoregion.

## 23 **Wildlife**

24  
25 As many as 38 mammal species may occur in the plan area. Mammalian species presence varies  
26 across the area, depending on habitat type and prey distribution. Most of the plan area is in low  
27 and tall shrub habitats or mesic spruce forests of the Kobuk Valley ecoregion.

28  
29  
30 The plan area is within the range of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WAH). The WAH  
31 generally uses the plan area during migration and as winter range.

32  
33 Moose are concentrated in the western portion of the plan boundary and use that area  
34 predominantly for wintering.

35  
36 Dall sheep occur within the steep mountain slopes, alpine ridges, and meadows of the Brooks  
37 Range.

## 38 **Birds**

39 Approximately 141 avian species may occur in the plan area. There is little information on avian  
40 species distribution or abundance in the plan area, and researchers have completed few avian  
41 monitoring studies in this region.

42  
43  
44 Passerines (perching/song birds) are the most common species group in terrestrial habitats,  
45 although species composition varies depending on land cover type and elevation. Waterfowl,  
46 gulls, terns, and shorebirds are generally attracted to lakes, rivers, and other wetlands; however,

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1 some species prefer alpine meadows and tundra. The majority of avian species are migratory and  
2 present only in summer or during migration. Approximately 20 year-round resident species  
3 occupy the plan area, including owls, ravens, ptarmigan, grouse, chickadees, and dippers.  
4 Approximately 130 species nest within the plan area, including these resident species.  
5

## 6 **Fish**

7 More than 20 fish species have been documented in the plan area. Pacific salmon, sheefish,  
8 broad and humpback whitefish, Arctic grayling, northern pike, and burbot are major targets of  
9 subsistence, sport, or commercial fisheries.  
10

11 The ADF&G Anadromous Waters Catalog (AWC) identifies five Pacific salmon species in the  
12 affected environment (Chinook, chum, sockeye, coho, and pink salmon). Chinook and chum  
13 salmon are widely distributed; ADF&G studies confirm that at least one of these two species use  
14 all major rivers or streams in the study area as well as other tributary streams. The ADF&G has  
15 classified Chinook salmon in the Yukon River system as a stock of Yield Concern (5 AAC  
16 39.222(f)(42)).  
17

## 18 **Recreation**

19 Recreation and tourism in the area includes road-based activity along the Dalton Highway, fly-  
20 in/backcountry trips along the southern Brooks Range, float trips and fishing and hunting along  
21 the broad lowland river corridors.  
22

## 23 **Cultural Resources**

24 There are 56 previously recorded AHRS sites located within the plan area. The majority of  
25 previously recorded sites are prehistoric, although a portion are historic.  
26

## 27 **Land Use and Economic Conditions**

### 28 **Access**

29 Access to the subject area is along RS2477 routes, by boats, snowmachines or planes.  
30  
31

### 32 **Historic and Present Uses and Activities**

33 Recreational use, subsistence use, mining use. Proposed project provides access to a mining  
34 district.  
35

### 36 **Economic Conditions in the Subject Area**

37 Communities near the planning area have “mixed” economies in which households rely on cash  
38 income and the harvest of subsistence resources.  
39  
40

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## 1 **Areawide Management Guidelines**

2  
3 DNR will use the following guidelines when considering issuing authorizations and conveyances  
4 or making management decisions on state land throughout the plan area. These guidelines will  
5 also apply to lands that are currently state selected and topfiled when they are tentatively  
6 approved or patented into state ownership.  
7  
8

### 9 **General Guidelines**

- 10  
11 • State land will be managed to protect access and public resources. The types of resources  
12 to be protected include, but are not limited to, habitat, recreation, water quality,  
13 watersheds, and trails.
- 14 • All authorizations for use of state land within the planning area will be consistent with  
15 the management intent in this plan.
- 16 • State land will remain open to mineral entry unless specifically closed.
- 17 • In considering authorizations for use of state land, DNR will adjudicate applications to:  
18 ○ minimize damage to streambeds, fish and wildlife habitat, vegetation, trails, and other  
19 resources;  
20 ○ minimize conflicts between resources and uses; and  
21 ○ protect the long-term value of the resource, public safety, and the environment.
- 22 • If authorizations from other agencies are required, DNR will consider issuing a permit or  
23 lease contingent upon issuance of these other authorizations.  
24  
25

## 26 **Unit Specific Management Guidelines**

27  
28 This section presents specific land management guidelines for each of the seven management  
29 units within this plan. This plan designates state lands in categories that are generally consistent  
30 with current use patterns and the most significant resources in the planning area. Guidance by  
31 unit is organized in a Resource Allocation Table (RAT).  
32  
33

### 34 **The RAT is organized under the following categories**

- 35  
36 • Unit number and geographic description.
- 37 • Map number for attached graphic depiction of management units.
- 38 • Land Use Designations which describe the general management direction for specific  
39 parcels (units) of state land.

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- 1 • Management Intent, which consists of an explanation of how specific units of state land  
2 are to be managed. Management intent language gives additional specificity to the  
3 general management direction provided by the land use classifications.
- 4 • Parcel specific management direction for state land.  
5

6 A land use designation recognizes uses or resources that are of major importance within a  
7 management unit. Unit designations are based on readily available resource information; current  
8 and projected use patterns; and input from the public, organizations, agency staff, and other  
9 sources. Activities and authorizations identified in units as “designated uses” may take  
10 precedence over other uses that are authorized subsequent to designation.  
11

12 The designations in the RAT convert to classifications identified under Title 11 of the Alaska  
13 Administrative Code. Multiple designations may be applied to a single unit. ADNR will manage  
14 activities in the unit to encourage, develop, or protect the uses or resources for which the unit is  
15 designated; however, all state land is intended for multiple use and should be managed in a  
16 manner that is consistent with this mission. Although some uses are designated, other uses may  
17 still be allowed in a given unit. ADNR will manage state land according to these designations  
18 and the equivalent land use classifications once the plan is adopted by the Commissioner of  
19 ADNR.  
20  
21

## 22 **Designations Used in This Plan**

### 24 **Ha – Habitat**

25 This designation applies to areas of varied size for fish and wildlife species during a sensitive  
26 life-history stage where alteration of the habitat or human disturbance could result in a  
27 permanent loss of a population or sustained yield of a species. In this plan, Ha was applied to  
28 moose and caribou wintering areas, Dall sheep areas, and anadromous fish streams where  
29 spawning and rearing occurs. Lands classified Habitat will remain in state ownership. Permits,  
30 easements, material sales, leases, and other types of less-than-fee disposals of state lands may be  
31 authorized. The identified habitat values for which these lands are classified shall be maintained  
32 to the greatest extent practicable. If impacts to the habitat cannot be avoided, they should be  
33 minimized through stipulations contained in an authorization. Linear transportation facilities,  
34 pipelines, communication infrastructure, and other types of infrastructure or developments that  
35 serve a public purpose or are in the interest of the state may be authorized and must consider the  
36 values identified for the unit. This designation converts to a classification of Wildlife Habitat  
37 Land.  
38

### 39 **Hv – Harvest**

40 Fish and wildlife harvest areas are subsistence, recreational and/or community harvest areas of  
41 varied size where alteration of habitat could permanently limit sustained yield to traditional  
42 users; or are areas of intense harvest where the level of harvest has reached, or is projected to  
43 reach, the harvestable surplus for the resource. This land will remain in state ownership. This  
44 designation applies to uplands and submerged lands. Permits, easements, material sales, leases,  
45 and other types of less-than-fee disposals of state lands may be authorized. The identified harvest  
46 values for which these lands are classified shall be maintained to the greatest extent practicable.

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1 If impacts to the habitat cannot be avoided, they should be minimized through stipulations  
2 contained in an authorization. Linear transportation facilities, pipelines, communication  
3 infrastructure, and other types of infrastructure or developments that serve a public purpose or  
4 are in the interest of the state may be authorized and must consider the values identified for the  
5 unit. This designation converts to a classification of Wildlife Habitat Land.

## 6 7 **Ma – Materials**

8 Sites suitable for extraction of materials, which include common varieties of sand, gravel, rock,  
9 peat, pumice, pumicite, cinders, clay, and sod are designated Materials. Permits, easements,  
10 leases, and other types of less-than-fee disposals of state lands may be authorized if they do not  
11 impede the extraction of materials from the land. Consult the Resource Allocation Table for  
12 identification of potentially appropriate uses for a specific unit. Linear transportation facilities,  
13 pipelines, communication infrastructure, and other types of infrastructure or developments that  
14 serve a public purpose or are in the interest of the state may be authorized and must consider the  
15 values identified for the unit. This designation converts to a classification of Material Land.

## 16 17 **Rd – Public Recreation-Dispersed**

18 This designation applies to those areas that offer or have a high potential for dispersed recreation  
19 or tourism and where desirable recreation conditions are scattered or widespread rather than  
20 localized. Some level of development or activities that facilitate dispersed recreation is  
21 anticipated and may include remote airstrips, trapping cabins, trails, and primitive campsites  
22 among other uses and activities. Permits, easements, material sales, leases, and other types of  
23 less-than-fee disposals of state lands may be authorized. If impacts to the identified resources  
24 cannot be avoided, they should be minimized through stipulations contained in an authorization.  
25 Developments on these lands typically facilitate public use and recreation. Linear transportation  
26 facilities, pipelines, communication infrastructure, and other types of infrastructure or  
27 developments that serve a public purpose or are in the interest of the state may be authorized and  
28 must consider the values identified for the unit. This designation converts to a land use  
29 classification of Public Recreation Land.

## 30 31 **Rm – Resource Management**

32 Land that contains one or more resource values, none of which is of sufficiently high value to  
33 merit designation as a primary use, or, because of the size of the parcel, a variety of uses can be  
34 accommodated with appropriate siting and design controls is designated Resource Management.  
35 This designation may also apply where there is a lack of resource, economic, or other  
36 information with which to assign a specific land use designation. Lands within this designation  
37 may be important for harvest activities by local residents seasonally. Consult the Resource  
38 Allocation Table for the management unit designated Resource Management in each region to  
39 determine the resources and uses present in these areas. Permits, easements, material sales,  
40 leases, and other types of less-than-fee disposals of state lands may be authorized. Linear  
41 transportation facilities, pipelines, communication infrastructure, and other types of  
42 infrastructure or developments that serve a public purpose or are in the interest of the state may  
43 be authorized on lands within this designation. This designation converts to a classification of  
44 Resource Management Land.

1 **State Land Classification**

2  
3 To implement the plan on state lands, ADNR must “classify” state lands to reflect the intent of  
4 “land use designations” made by this plan. State law requires that land classification precede  
5 most conveyance or leasing of state uplands or tidelands. According to state statute,  
6 classification means, “. . . the designation of lands according to their apparent best use.” It  
7 “. . . identifies the primary use for which the land will be managed . . .” but “. . . all other uses are  
8 initially presumed as compatible with the primary use.” For this reason, all plan classifications  
9 are intended for multiple uses. In some instances, more than one designation is identified; these  
10 are termed “co-designations” and indicate that two (or more) uses are considered to be  
11 compatible within a specific management unit of state land. The Resource Management (Rm)  
12 designation is used in this plan, typically applying to management units where two or more  
13 resource values exist but none is of sufficiently high value to merit designation as a primary use  
14 and uses are judged to be compatible within specific portions of the management unit.  
15 Compatibility of uses should be able to be achieved through separation, or siting and design  
16 techniques that should reduce or preclude the undesirable effects of a particular use. Following is  
17 a list of land classifications, and their associated definitions in Alaska regulations (the Alaska  
18 Administrative Code – AAC), which will apply to state lands in the planning area as a result of  
19 plan adoption. ADNR will manage state lands and resources consistent with these classifications  
20 and with the management directions given in the RAT for specific management units of state  
21 land.

22  
23 **11 AAC 55.120. Material Land**

24 Land classified material is land that is suitable for the extraction of common varieties of sand,  
25 gravel, stone, peat, clay, and other similar materials.

26  
27 **11 AAC 55.160. Public Recreation Land**

28 Land classified public recreation is land that is suitable for recreation uses, waysides, parks,  
29 campsites, scenic overlooks, hunting, fishing or boating access sites, trail corridors, or greenbelts  
30 along bodies of water or roadways.

31  
32 **11 AAC 55.200. Resource Management Land**

33 Land classified resource management is either: 1) land that might have a number of important  
34 resources, but for which a specific resource allocation decision is not possible because of a lack  
35 of adequate resource, economic, or other relevant information; or for which a decision is not  
36 necessary because the land is presently inaccessible and remote and development is not likely to  
37 occur within the next 10 years; or 2) land that contains one or more resource values, none of  
38 which is of sufficiently high value to merit designation as a primary use.

39  
40 **11 AAC 55.230. Wildlife Habitat Land**

41 Land classified wildlife habitat is land which is primarily valuable for: 1) fish and wildlife  
42 resource production, whether existing or through habitat manipulation, to supply sufficient  
43 numbers or diversity of species to support commercial, recreational, or traditional uses on an  
44 optimum sustained yield basis; or 2) a unique or rare assemblage of a single or multiple species  
45 of regional, state, or national significance.

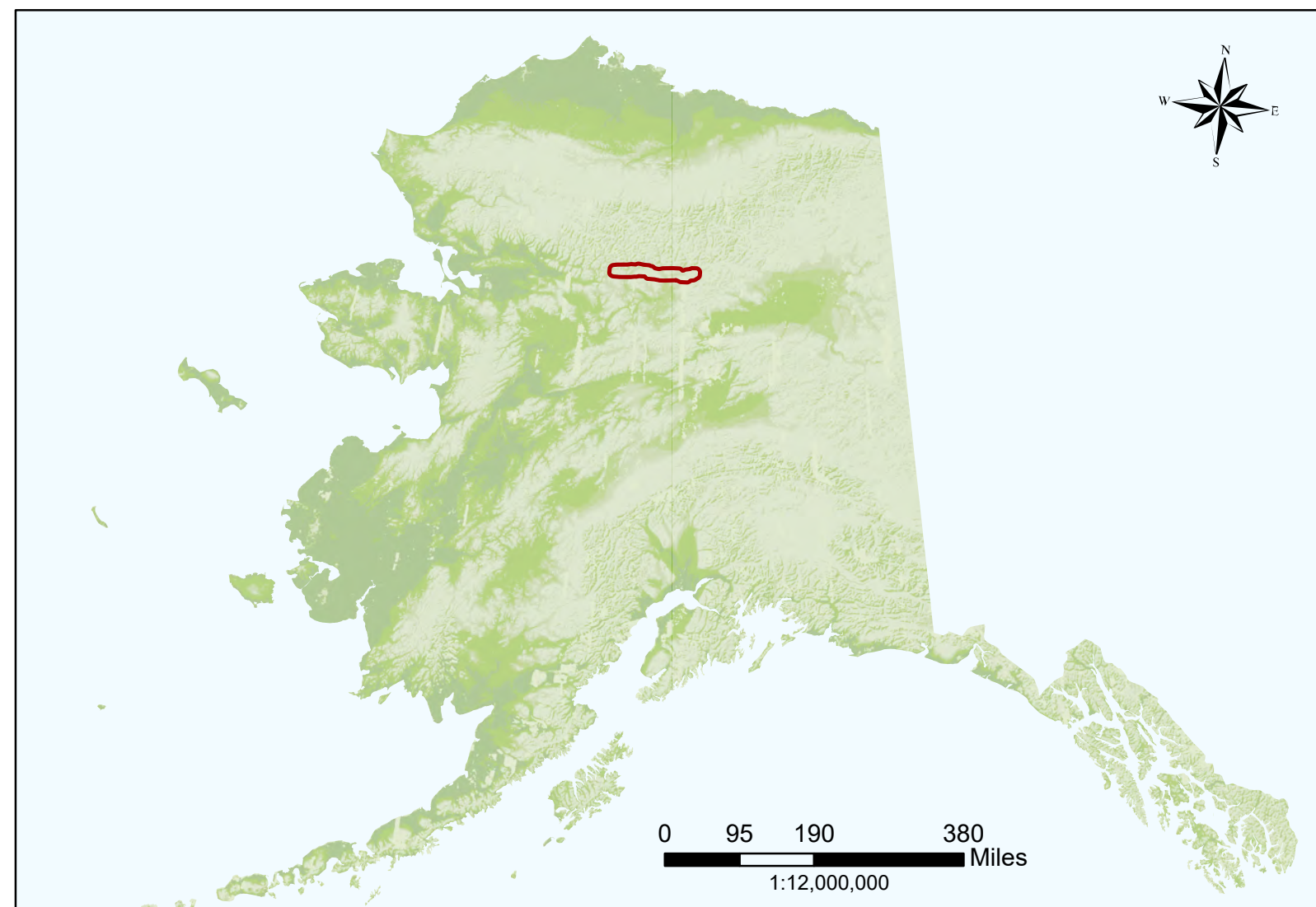
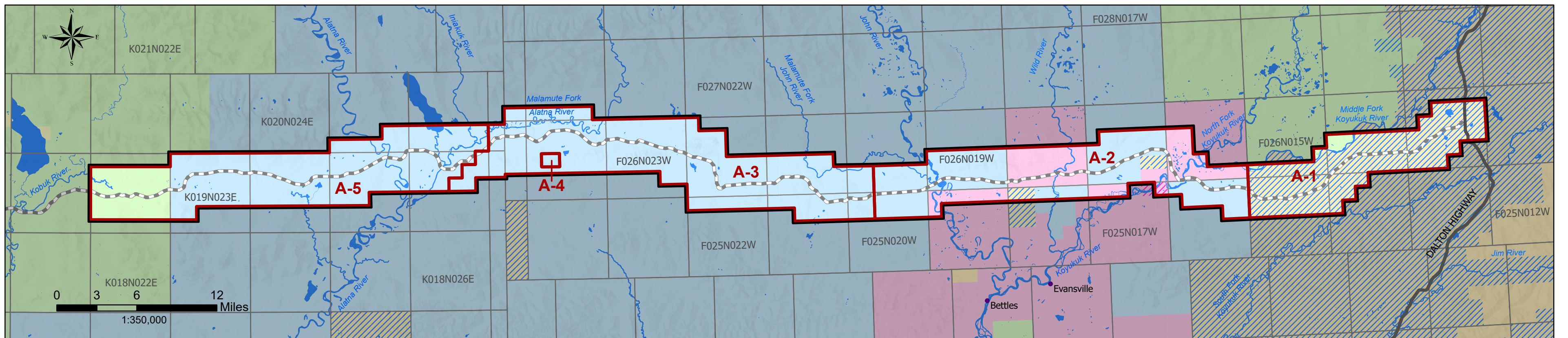
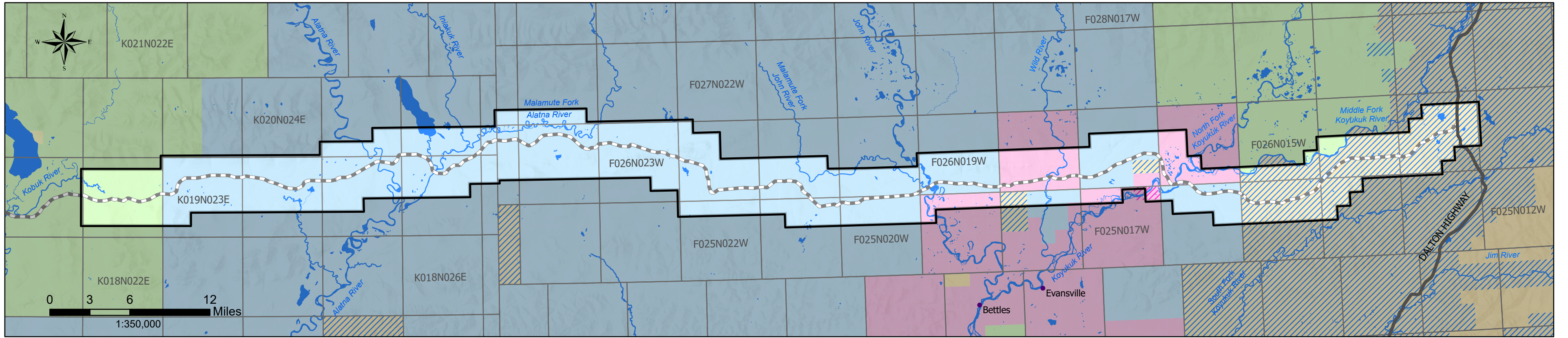
1 **Resource Allocation Table – Ambler Road Site Specific Plan**

2

Unit # / Name	Designation(s) / Acres	Map	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
<p><b>A-01</b> <b>West of Dalton Hwy</b></p>	<p>Rm 43,289 ac.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Manage this unit for a variety of uses and resources.</p> <p>ADNR shall consult ADF&amp;G regarding authorizations involving uses that may impact caribou migratory/wintering habitat, and anadromous waterbodies.</p> <p>Any authorizations involving long-term uses are to consider impacts on public access to subsistence resources and recreational activities.</p> <p>Protect heritage sites within the unit.</p>	<p>This unit consists of a large parcel of state selected lands, though the State owns all shorelands and submerged lands under navigable waterbodies. The unit is bounded on the east by the Dalton Highway and extends approximately seventeen miles southwesterly along the Brooks Range Foothills to the north, and the Jack White Range to the south. The main waterbody in this unit is the Middle Fork Koyukuk River and its tributaries. The terrain is boreal uplands, lowlands and alpine tundra, with ponds and lakes dispersed throughout. John R Creek also traverses the unit.</p> <p>The Middle Fork Koyukuk River supports spawning and juvenile Chinook salmon, and chum salmon are present. A small area in the far northwest corner of the unit is used by caribou for migration/wintering. Subsistence resources in the unit include caribou, fish, berries and plants.</p> <p>The Dalton Highway, Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS), and ASAP ROW lease traverse this unit.</p> <p>Portions of the unit are closed to mineral entry under MO 1162A01 and MO 1147. State and Federal mining claims and coal occurrences are in the unit, as well as two ADOT/PF gravel sites.</p> <p>Recreation occurs within the stream corridors. Several RS2477 routes are also located in the unit, including RST 209 – Bettles-Coldfoot, RST1611 – Bergman-Cathedral Mountain, RST 38 – Tramway Bar, and RST 412 – Slate Creek, which coincides with a portion of the proposed Ambler Road alignment.</p> <p>The AHRS reports heritage sites in or around this unit.</p>

Unit # / Name	Designation(s) / Acres	Map	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
<b>A-02</b> <b>Koyukuk River to John River</b>	Ha, Rd 47,232 ac.	2	<p>Manage unit for habitat and harvest values as well as dispersed recreation and access.</p> <p>Uses may be authorized in this unit but consideration must be given to the impact upon the caribou herd by a potential use. Consult ADF&amp;G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use that may impact this population. Maintain harvest opportunities.</p> <p>ADNR shall consult ADF&amp;G regarding authorizations involving uses that may impact anadromous waterbodies.</p>	<p>This unit includes parcels of state-owned land, state selected land, and Native owned land, though the State owns all shorelands and submerged lands under navigable waterbodies. The unit extends approximately 30 miles westerly along the Brooks Range Foothills to the north, and the Jack White Range and Alatna Hills to the south. The terrain includes boreal alpine, boreal upland and lowland, and boreal upland and subalpine. Major waterways include the John River, Malamute Fork John River, Wild River, Koyukuk River, Middle Fork Koyukuk River, and North Fork Koyukuk River, with ponds and lakes dispersed throughout the unit. These waterways support chum and Chinook Salmon spawning grounds, Whitefish, and Inconnu/Sheefish. Caribou migration/wintering occurs in the unit.</p> <p>Several RS2477 routes are located in the unit, including RST 18 – Bettles-Wild Lake River Trail, RST 209 – Bettles-Coldfoot, RST1611 – Bergman-Cathedral Mountain, and RST 450 – Hickel Highway.</p> <p>Open to mineral entry. Coal occurrences are present in the unit, and a planned construction camp to support the proposed Ambler Road project.</p>
<b>A-03</b> <b>John River to Iniakuk/Alatna Rivers</b>	Rm 87,581 ac.	3	<p>Manage this unit for a variety of uses and resources.</p> <p>ADNR shall consult ADF&amp;G regarding authorizations involving uses that may impact anadromous waterbodies.</p> <p>Any authorizations involving long-term uses are to consider impacts on public access to subsistence resources and recreational activities.</p>	<p>This unit includes large parcels of state-owned land. The unit extends approximately 30 miles westerly along the Brooks Range Foothills to the north, and the Alatna Hills to the south. Terrain includes boreal alpine, boreal upland and lowland, and boreal upland. Major waterways include the Malamute Fork John River, Mettenpherg Creek, Malamute Fork Alatna River, and West Fork Henshaw (Sozhekla) Creek, which support chum salmon rearing and spawning, Chinook salmon spawning, and coho salmon rearing.</p> <p>Open to mineral entry. State mining claims are present within the unit. An airstrip, a construction camp and material sites are planned in this unit to support the proposed Ambler Road project.</p>
<b>A-04</b> <b>Material/RipRap Site</b>	Ma 860 ac.	3	<p>Manage unit for its material resources consistent with the authorization issued by ADNR. These lands shall be retained in state ownership to provide continuity in transportation operations among other beneficial uses.</p> <p>Lands are available for lease, permit, or other less-than-fee disposal.</p>	<p>This unit is a small unit within a larger unit comprised of an important planned material and riprap site to support the proposed Ambler Road project. Open to mineral entry. State mining claims are present within the unit.</p>

Unit # / Name	Designation(s) / Acres	Map	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
<b>A-05</b> <b>Iniakuk/Alatna Rivers to Kobuk River</b>	Ha, Hv 65,227 ac.	3	<p>Manage unit for habitat and harvest values as well as dispersed recreation and access.</p> <p>ADNR shall consult ADF&amp;G regarding authorizations involving uses that may impact caribou or moose wintering habitat, Dall sheep populations, or anadromous waterbodies.</p> <p>Any authorizations involving long-term uses are to consider impacts on public access to subsistence resources and recreational activities.</p> <p>Protect heritage sites within the unit.</p>	<p>This unit includes large parcels of state-owned land and a portion of Gates of the Arctic National Park, where the State owns all shorelands and submerged lands under navigable waterbodies. Unit extends westerly from Iniakuk River on the east to the boundary of the Northwest Area Plan on the west, along the Brooks Range Foothills to the north, and Helpmejack Hills and Alatna Hills to the south. Terrain includes boreal alpine and boreal uplands. Major waterways include Alatna River, Iniakuk River, Helpmejack Creek, Rockybottom Creek, Opposite Creek, Tobuk Creek, and Kichaiakaka Creek, which support chum salmon spawning, Chinook salmon spawning and rearing, adult coho salmon, and Dolly Varden rearing. The unit provides caribou and moose wintering habitat, and Dall sheep are present in alpine regions.</p> <p>Open to mineral entry. State mining claims are present in this unit. A proposed material/riprap site and construction camp to support the Ambler Road project are located within the unit.</p> <p>The AHRS reports heritage sites within or near this unit.</p>
<b>A-06</b> <b>Navigable Rivers and Lakes – General</b>	See Units A-01 through A-05	2, 3	<p>The designation and management intent for navigable waterbodies that cross or are surrounded by state-owned and state-selected lands not within federal conservation units are the same as those of the upland tract, except for the navigable portions of waterbodies that contain fish spawning and rearing areas, which are designated Habitat.</p>	See resources and uses for units A-01 through A-05.
<b>A-07</b> <b>Navigable Rivers and Lakes within Conservation System Units</b>	Ha, Rd	2, 3	<p>The navigable portions of waterbodies within CSUs that contain anadromous fish are designated Habitat. All such areas are also designated Public Recreation-Dispersed.</p>	See resources and uses for units A-01 through A-05.



## Ambler Road Site Specific Plan Map 1 Planning Area & General Land Status

- Ambler Road Boundary
- Classification Units
- Proposed Ambler Route
- State Selected
- Native Selected
- State Lands
- Native Lands
- BLM
- NPS/USFWS

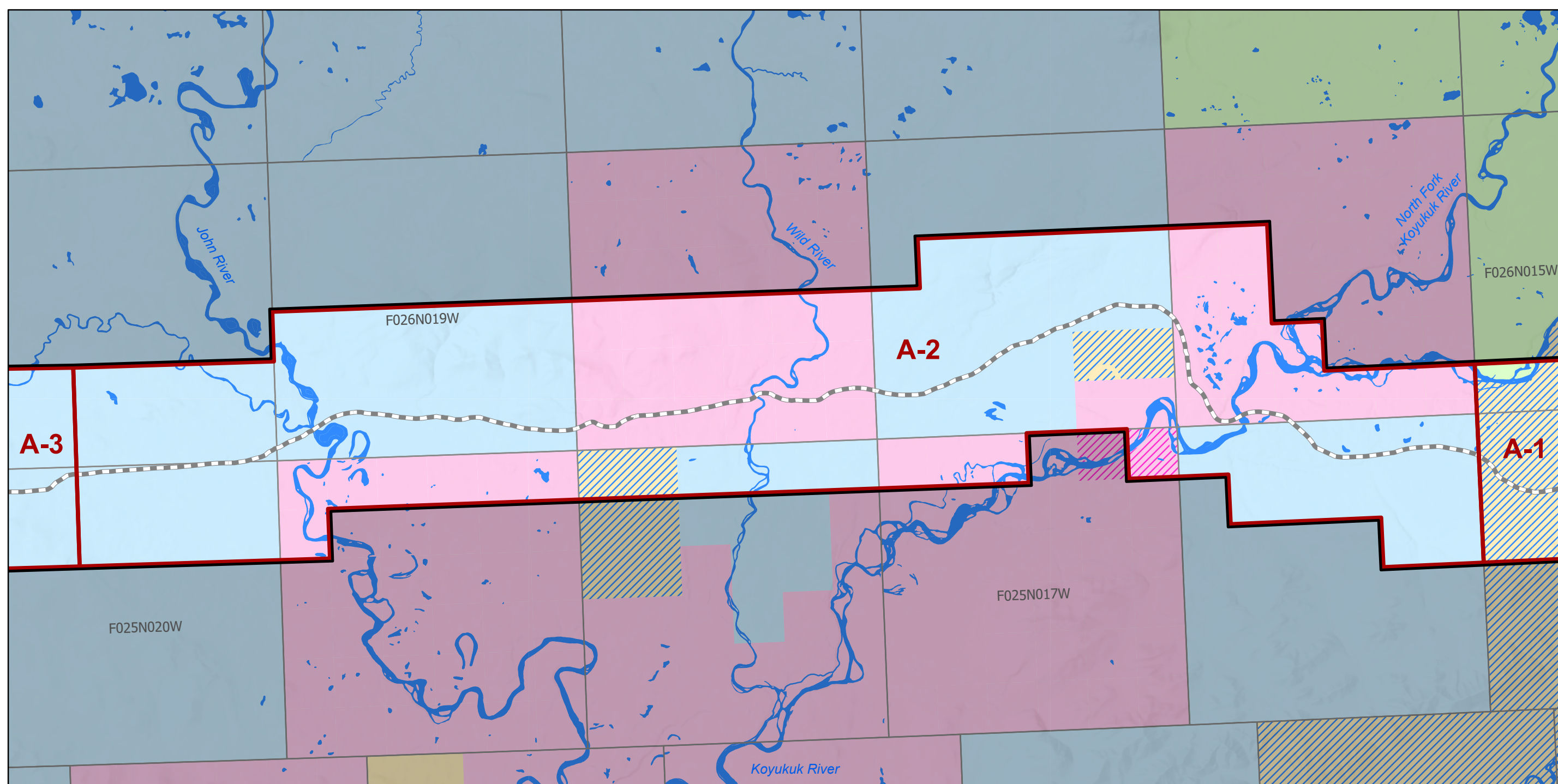
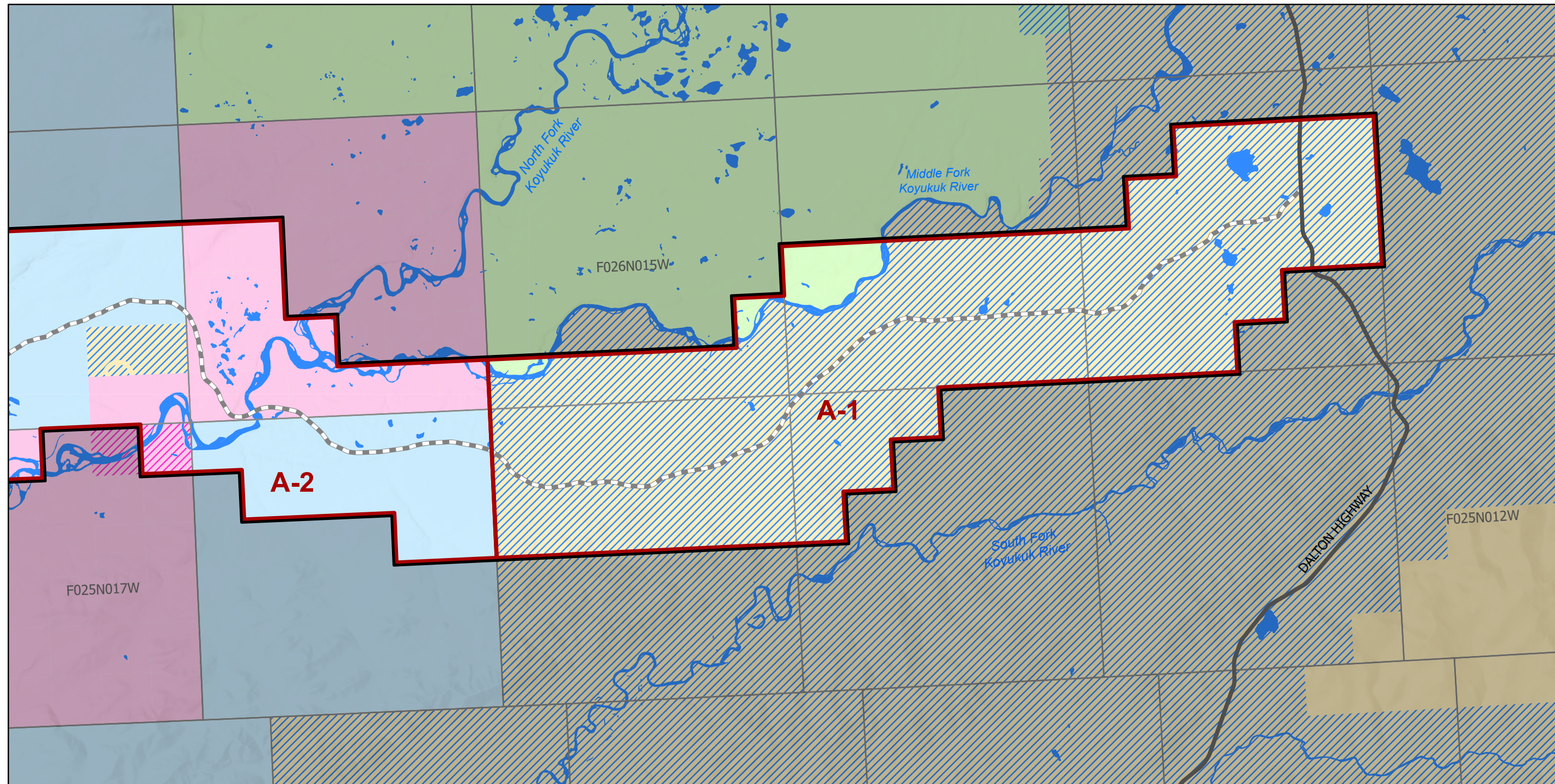
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Land use designations only apply to land owned by the State Department of Natural Resources, as indicated by the management units on this map. There are other parcels contained within these units but the designation does not apply to these non-state lands.

This map is for graphic representation only and is intended to be used only as a guide. Areas outside of the planning area are shaded out. Colors may appear darker.  
Created: January, 2022 JLG, DNR, DMLW, RADS  
Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983  
Albers Equal Area Conic



# Ambler Road Site Specific Plan Map 2 Eastern Units and Designations



- Ambler Road Boundary
- Classification Units
- Proposed Ambler Route
- State Selected
- Native Selected
- State Lands
- Native Lands
- BLM
- NPS/USFWS

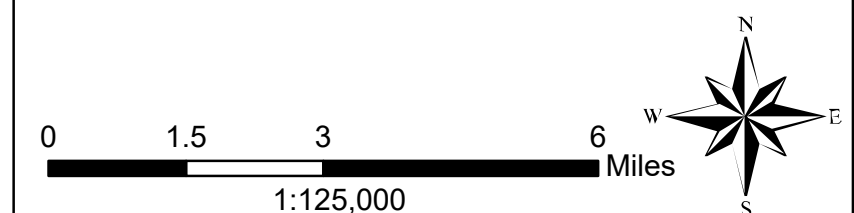
### Unit Designations

- A-1 Rm
- A-2 Ha, Rd



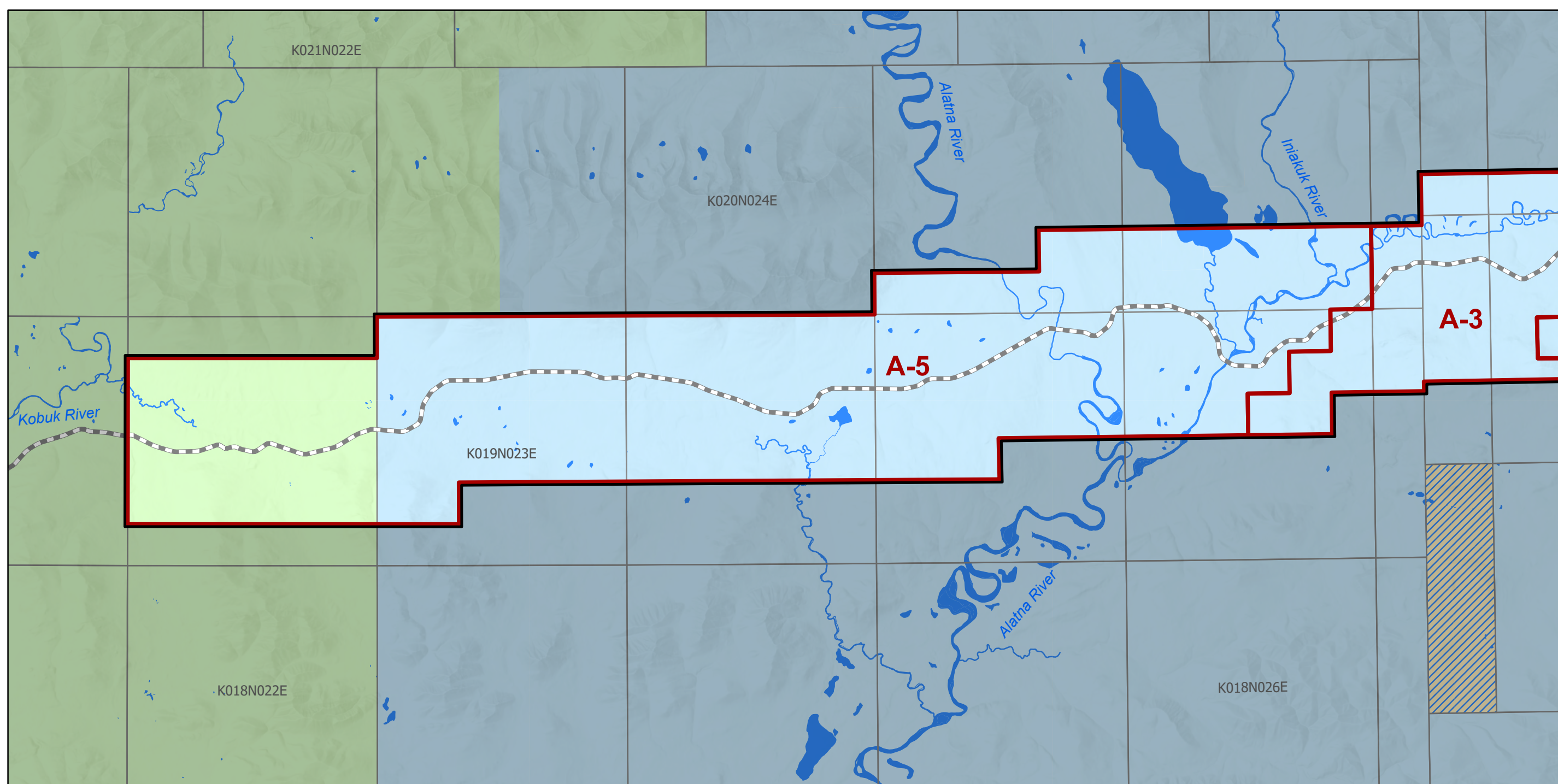
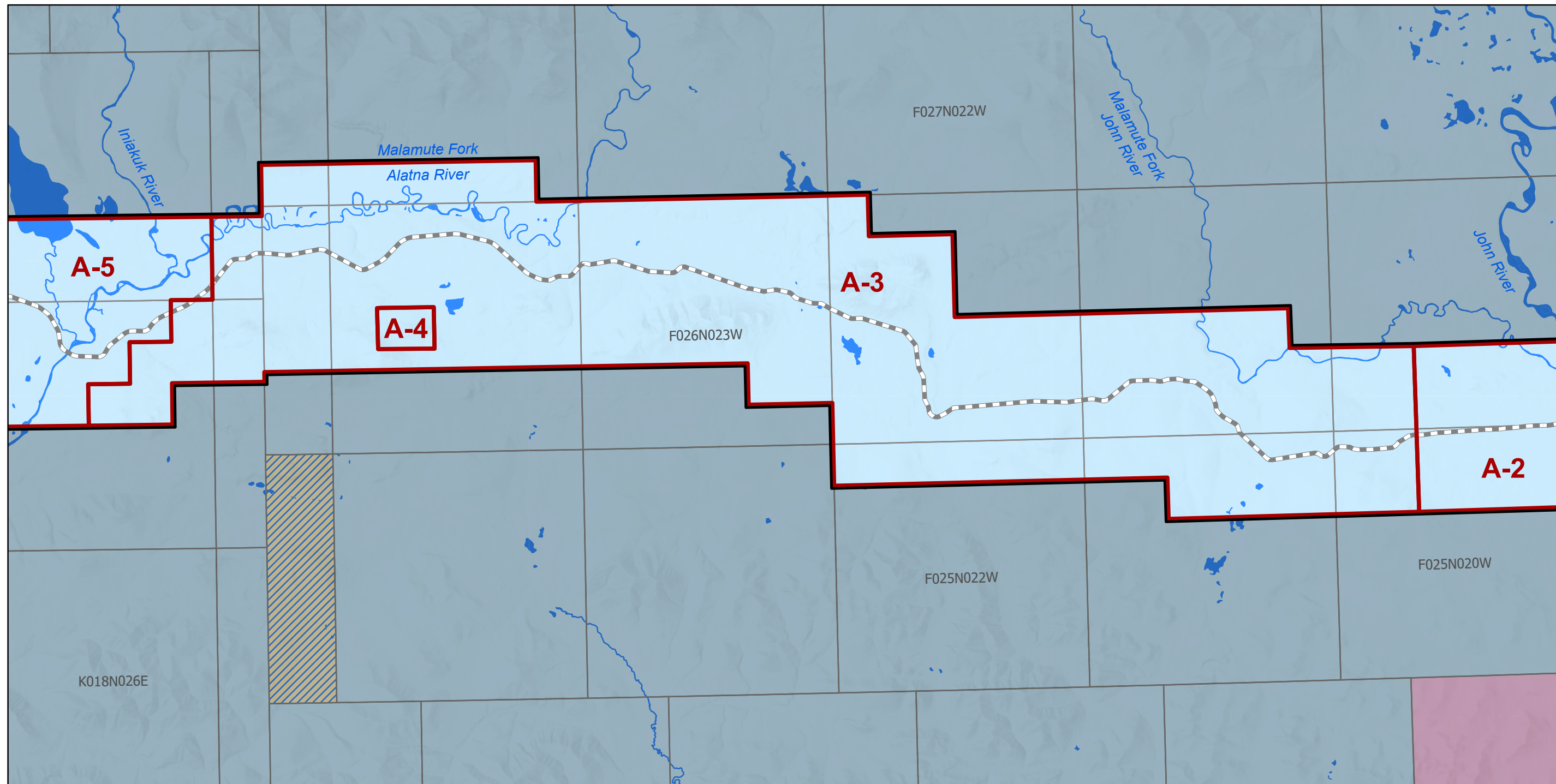
Land use designations only apply to land owned by the State Department of Natural Resources, as indicated by the management units on this map. There are other parcels contained within these units but the designation does not apply to these non-state lands.

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Created: January, 2022 JLG, DNR, DMLW, RADS  
Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983  
Albers Equal Area Conic





# Ambler Road Site Specific Plan Map 3 Western Units and Designations



- Ambler Road Boundary
- Classification Units
- Proposed Ambler Route
- State Selected
- Native Selected
- State Lands
- Native Lands
- BLM
- NPS/USFWS

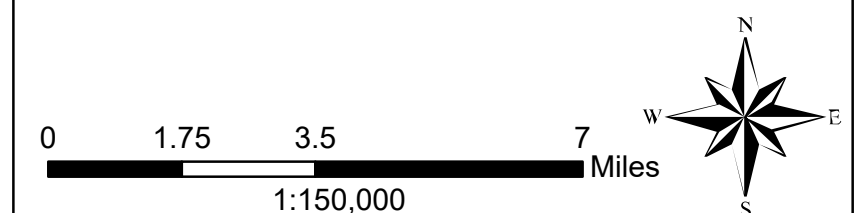
### Unit Designations

- A-3 Rm
- A-4 Ma
- A-5 Ha, Hv



Land use designations only apply to land owned by the State Department of Natural Resources, as indicated by the management units on this map. There are other parcels contained within these units but the designation does not apply to these non-state lands.

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Created: January, 2022 JLG, DNR, DMLW, RADS  
Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983  
Albers Equal Area Conic





1 **Appendix A**

2  
3 **STATE OF ALASKA**  
4 **DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
5 **DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER**  
6

7 **Land Classification Order No. NC-21-001**  
8  
9

10 I. Name: Ambler Road Site Specific Plan  
11

12  
13 II. The classifications in Part III are based on written justification contained in one of the following  
14 plans:  
15

16 Area Plan:  
17 Adopted ( ) Revised ( ) Dated \_\_\_\_\_  
18

19 Management Plan:  
20 Adopted ( ) Revised ( ) Dated \_\_\_\_\_  
21

22 Site Specific Plan:  
23 Adopted (x) Revised ( ) Dated \_\_\_\_\_  
24  
25

26 III. Legal Description	Acreage	Acquisition Authority	Existing Classification	Classification by this action
27 See plan maps	244,188		None	See plan maps

28  
29  
30  
31  
32 IV. This order is issued under the authority granted by AS 38.04.065 and AS 38.05.300 to the  
33 Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources. The above described lands are hereby  
34 designated and classified as indicated. Nothing shall prevent the reclassification of these lands if  
35 warranted in the public interest.  
36  
37  
38

39 Classified: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
40 Commissioner,  
41 Department of Natural Resources  
42  
43

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT